



Interoffice Memo

DATE: October 29, 2018

FROM: Bill DuVall, State Bridge Engineer

TO: Divisions of Engineering, Construction, Permits/Operations, Program Delivery, P3, Local Grants and Field Districts, and the Offices of Engineering Services and TIA

SUBJECT: LRFD RETAINING WALL IMPLEMENTATION

The Office of Bridges Design and Maintenance as well as the Geotechnical Bureau in the Office of Materials and Testing have invested several years developing processes and proficiencies related to the AASHTO LRFD Bridge Design Specifications. Initially, focus for LRFD implementation was placed on bridge design policies and practices. FHWA policy required that all projects with Preliminary Engineering activities authorized after October 1, 2007 utilize Load and Resistance Factored Design (LRFD) for the design for bridge structures. More recent efforts have shifted attention to retaining wall design and the foundation investigation aspects related thereto. Some projects may already contain retaining walls that utilize LRFD. This letter establishes policy for using LRFD in the design of retaining walls on all projects where the Management Directed ROW date is on or after January 1, 2019.

In February of this year the Geotechnical Bureau released a new Wall Foundation Investigation template for use on LRFD projects, and laid out a number of policies and practices to be used in association with the work. Since 2013, the Bridges and Structures Design Manual has stated that retaining walls are to be designed according to the AASHTO LRFD Bridge Design Specifications. However until now there has not been established procedures for designing retaining walls using the LRFD method and therefore we have been utilizing the Standard Specifications. At this time, the Department is equipped to implement LRFD as it pertains to retaining walls. Georgia Standards 9031L, 4948A, B and C have now been re-engineered in accordance with LRFD and can be used in current projects under design and being Let to construction. In accordance with this letter all other retaining walls shall be designed using LRFD.

If you have any questions please contact me or you may Douglas Franks of the Office of Bridges and Structures at 404-631-1917.

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